UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/49/2/Rev.1
28 November 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 111

PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

Consolidated statement of scheduled special conferences for 1995

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 46/190 of 20 December 1991, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session, and as appropriate at subsequent sessions, a consolidated statement relating to the number and costs of scheduled special conferences, bearing in mind the annual limit of five as set out in resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985 and endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986.

2. On the basis of requests contained in various draft resolutions, the General Assembly, at its forty-seventh session, was provided with statements of programme budget implications containing estimates of conference-servicing requirements at full cost for the following two special conferences to be convened in 1995: the World Summit for Social Development, to be held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March (programme budget implications contained in document A/C.5/47/70); and the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September (programme budget implications contained in document E/1992/24/Add.2). A third special conference, the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be held at Tunis from 3 to 14 April, was assumed, for costing purposes, to be held at Vienna for two weeks in February 1995. A fourth special conference, the Third United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, will be held at Geneva from 13 to 24 November 1995.

3. It should be stressed that the costing for the conferences that appears in the present document is based on theoretical full-cost estimates that assume that no part of the related conference workload can be absorbed by the permanent conference-servicing capacity of the Organization. Moreover, it should be noted that in addition to the costs presented below, the preparation and holding of the special conferences scheduled for 1995 entail significant substantive and administrative costs. These include the regular budget resources appropriated for the ad hoc secretariats of the conferences, the resources devoted by the substantive departments to the preparatory process (staff and other resources), the costs of administrative entities during and after the preparatory process and the extrabudgetary resources raised for each conference. Regrettably, only some of those costs could be indicated with accuracy (e.g., $1,804,000 and $1,769,100 for the ad hoc secretariats of the World Social Summit and of the Fourth World Conference on Women, respectively, and $1,000,000 and $4,500,000 from extrabudgetary resources for the Social Summit and the Conference on Women, respectively). Detailed costs for such other conferences as the Ninth Crime Congress and the Conference on Restrictive Business Practices are not available. Similarly, no information is available on the amount of resources devoted to the special conferences by the United Nations Office at Geneva, the United Nations Office at Vienna, the regional commissions and the central Administration of the United Nations.

4. Furthermore, in its resolution 47/202 A of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a revised consolidated statement of scheduled special conferences convened under United Nations auspices towards the end of each of its sessions. In response to that request, information regarding special conferences scheduled after the issuance of the present report will be issued in an addendum.

II. WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

A. General Assembly resolution 47/92

5. In paragraphs 3 and 4 of its resolution 47/92 of 16 December 1992, the General Assembly decided to convene a World Summit for Social Development at the level of heads of State or Government early in 1995, and accepted the offer of the Government of Denmark to host the Summit.

6. In paragraphs 7 and 8, the General Assembly decided to establish a Preparatory Committee, which should hold an organizational session for one week in April 1993 and, at the level of personal representatives of the heads of State or Government or other appropriate high-level representatives specifically designated by Governments, three substantive sessions in 1994 of no more than 10 working days each, at the Headquarters of the United Nations.

7. Moreover, in paragraph 11, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish an ad hoc secretariat unit, including personnel of the relevant organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, to assist in the preparatory process and the substantive work of the Preparatory Committee.

B. Commission on Social Development resolution 33/1, annex

8. In section A, paragraph 8, of the annex to its resolution 33/1, the Commission for Social Development concluded that some representatives had expressed the desirability of seeking input from experts and practitioners in the field of social development, and indicated the willingness of their Governments to host expert group meetings on the three core issues as elaborated in paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of section A of the annex.

C. Decisions taken by the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development

9. At the 5th meeting of its organizational session, on 16 April 1993, the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development decided that the Summit should be convened on 11 and 12 March 1995 at Copenhagen, preceded by a meeting of personal representatives of heads of State or Government or other appropriate high-level representatives specifically designated by Governments, from 6 to 10 March 1995. It also decided that the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the Summit should be held from 31 January to 11 February 1994, the second should be convened from 22 August to 2 September 1994 and, considering the exact dates of the Summit, that the third session should take place from 16 to 27 January 1995, instead of in 1994 as originally envisaged in resolution 47/92.

D. General Assembly resolution 48/100

10. In paragraph 6 of its resolution 48/100 of 20 December 1993, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to make the necessary provisions, within existing resources, so that the Preparatory Committee might, if it so decided, establish, during its first session, a working group of the whole to meet in parallel with the plenary for a duration of one week; establish, during its second session, a working group of the whole to meet in parallel with the plenary for a duration of two weeks; and establish, during its third session, two working groups to meet in parallel with the plenary for a duration of two weeks.

E. Sessions of the Preparatory Committee

11. The first session of the Preparatory Committee was convened at Headquarters from 31 January to 11 February. The second session was held at Headquarters from 22 August to 2 September 1994 and the third session will be held at Headquarters from 16 to 27 January 1995, in accordance with the decision taken by the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session in April 1994 (see sect. C above).

12. The conference-servicing requirements for the two 1994 sessions of the Preparatory Committee on a full-cost basis are estimated at $991,500. Costing information on the 1995 session is not available.

F. Summit

13. The cost estimates relating to conference servicing for the convening of the Summit are based on the following assumptions:

(a) The Summit would meet for seven days in Copenhagen;

(b) There would be a plenary and one main committee meeting simultaneously, for a total of four meetings daily;

(c) The languages of the Summit would be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. There would be an estimated 500 pages of pre-session and 150 pages of in-session documentation.

14. The conference-servicing requirements for the Summit on a full-cost basis are estimated at $870,000. As the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council have decided to accept the invitation of the Government of Denmark to host the Summit, it is understood that any additional conference-servicing costs over and above the $870,000, resulting from that decision, would be borne by the Government of Denmark under the terms of General Assembly resolution 40/243.

III. FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

A. General Assembly resolution 44/77

15. In paragraph 8 of its resolution 44/77 of 8 December 1989, the Assembly requested the Commission on the Status of Women to consider at its session in 1990 the question of holding, in 1995, a world conference on women, at the lowest possible cost, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

B. Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/12

16. In paragraphs 1 and 2 of its resolution 1990/12 of 24 May 1990, the Economic and Social Council recommended that a world conference on women be held in 1995, and requested the Commission on the Status of Women, as the preparatory body for the world conference, to include preparations for the conference in its regular work programme during the period 1991-1995 under the item on monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

17. In paragraph 3 of the same resolution, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to include the relevant costs of preparing for and convening the world conference in the programme budget of the Organization for the bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995, within the respective budgetary limits.

C. General Assembly resolution 45/129

18. In paragraphs 8 and 9 of its resolution 45/129 of 14 December 1990, the General Assembly endorsed Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/12, and took note of the invitation extended by the Government of Austria to host the world conference on women in 1995 at Vienna. 1/

19. In paragraph 10, the General Assembly requested the Commission, as the preparatory body for the world conference, to decide on the venue of the conference, not later than 1992, bearing in mind that preference should be given to those regions that had not yet hosted a world conference on women.

20. In paragraph 11, the General Assembly also requested the Commission, in deciding on the preparation of documentation for the conference, to pay attention to Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/9 of 24 May 1990 concerning the second report on the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies.

D. Commission on the Status of Women decision 35/101

21. By its decision 35/101 of 8 March 1991, the Commission on the Status of Women decided that the world conference on women should be entitled "Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace".

E. General Assembly resolution 46/98

22. In paragraph 29 of its resolution 46/98 of 16 December 1991, the General Assembly requested the Fifth Committee, in reviewing the programme on the advancement of women contained in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, to ensure that established staffing levels, temporary assistance and other objects of expenditure were sufficient to ensure adequate support to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and effective implementation of other aspects of the programme, especially the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, and, if proposed resources were found to be insufficient, to determine the appropriate resource levels.

F. Commission on the Status of Women resolution 36/8

23. In section A, paragraph 1 (a)-(c), of its resolution 36/8 of 20 March 1992, the Commission on the Status of Women decided: to accept the offer of the Government of China to act as host for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/243; that the Conference should be of a duration of 10 working days; and that the Conference should be held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995.

24. In section B, paragraph 6, of the same resolution, the Commission recommended that, in those regions that had not yet scheduled them, regional

conferences to prepare for the World Conference should be organized under the auspices of the corresponding regional commission.

25. In section D, paragraph 1, the Commission requested the Economic and Social Council to reconsider the budget envisaged for the Conference on the basis of a report of the Secretary-General outlining resource requirements for regional and interregional preparatory activities, public information activities and for the Conference itself.

G. Economic and Social Council decision 1992/272

26. In its resolution 1992/272 of 30 July 1992, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the recommendations contained in Commission on the Status of Women resolution 36/8.

H. Regional preparatory conferences

27. Regional conferences on women were convened in 1994 as follows: the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) at Dakar, Senegal, from 16 to 23 November; the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) at Mar del Plata, Argentina, from 25 to 29 September; and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) at Jakarta, Indonesia, from 7 to 14 June. In response to section B, paragraph 6, of Commission on the Status of Women resolution 36/8 B, those conferences were each extended by two days and designated as regional preparatory conferences to consider the regional contribution to the Conference.

28. The conference-servicing requirements for those meetings on a full cost basis are estimated at $290,100. 2/

29. Regional conferences were also held in Europe and Western Asia in 1994, as follows: the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) at Vienna from 17 to 21 October; and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) at Amman from 6 to 10 November 1994. The conference-servicing requirements for those meetings on a full cost basis are not available.

I. Expert group meetings

30. As part of the preparatory activities, expert group meetings are being convened in 1994-1995 (one by ECA, one by ECE, two by ECLAC, two by ESCAP and one by ESCWA) to consider issues that would provide an input into the deliberations of the regional conferences, where applicable, and into documentation for the Conference itself. Provision in the amount of $140,000 would be required to convene the seven expert group meetings. 3/

J. Conference

31. Cost estimates for the Conference are based on the assumption that it will be held for 10 days in New York, the established headquarters of the substantive organizational unit. It is understood that any additional costs resulting from the change of the meeting venue to Beijing would, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 40/243, be borne by the Government of China.

32. The cost estimates for the convening of the Conference are based on the following additional assumptions:

(a) There would be one plenary and two committees meeting daily, for a total of six meetings a day;

(b) The languages of the Conference would be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. There would be 500 pages of pre-session, 300 pages of in-session and 200 pages of post-session documentation.

33. The conference-servicing requirements for the Conference on a full-cost basis are estimated at $1,406,300.

IV. NINTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

A. General Assembly resolution 46/152

34. In paragraph 11 (c) of its resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, the General Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council at its organizational session for 1992 to endorse the role and functions of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, in accordance with the recommendations contained in the statement of principles and programme of action.

B. Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/24

35. In paragraph 5 of its resolution 1992/24 of 30 July 1992, the Economic and Social Council invited the regional commissions, interregional and regional institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, government-appointed national correspondents in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, specialized agencies and other entities within the United Nations system, the intergovernmental organizations concerned and relevant non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to become actively involved in the preparations for the Ninth Congress.

36. In paragraph 7 of the same resolution, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to provide the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme with the resources necessary to undertake, in an effective and timely manner, within the overall appropriations of the programme

budget for the biennium 1992-1993, the preparatory activities for the Ninth Congress, as directed by the Commission, including the organization of regional preparatory meetings, and to ensure adequate resources for the biennium 1994-1995.

37. In paragraph 9, the Economic and Social Council took note with appreciation of the offer of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to act as host for the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

C. Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/32

38. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 1993/32 of 27 July 1993, the Economic and Social Council took note with appreciation of the invitation of the Government of Uganda to act as host for the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Ninth Congress.

39. In paragraph 5 of the same resolution, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the programme of work for the Ninth Congress, including the holding of four one-day workshops and two two-day workshops on specified topics.

40. In paragraph 11, the Economic and Social Council took note of the timetable for the five regional preparatory meetings for the Ninth Congress contained in the report of the Secretary-General. 4/

41. In paragraph 13, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to allocate, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, the necessary resources for the organization of the five regional preparatory meetings for the Ninth Congress and of the Ninth Congress itself and to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in the regional preparatory meetings for the Ninth Congress and in the Ninth Congress itself.

42. In paragraph 14, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Ninth Congress should be held early in 1995 for a period of 10 working days and 2 days of pre-Congress consultations.

D. General Assembly resolution 48/103

43. In paragraph 9 of its resolution 48/103 of 20 December 1993, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to undertake all steps necessary to ensure the adequate organization of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/32.

E. Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/19

44. In section I, paragraph 1, of its resolution 1994/19 of 25 July 1994, the Economic and Social Council accepted the invitation of the Government of Tunisia to act as host for the Ninth Congress.

45. In paragraph 2, the Council reaffirmed the organizational arrangements stipulated in its resolutions 1992/24 and 1993/32.

46. In paragraph 9, the Council approved the documentation for the Ninth Congress, as proposed by the Secretary-General in his report on progress made in the preparations for the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, 5/ taking into account relevant recommendations made by the Council in resolution 1994/19.

F. Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/305

47. In subparagraph (i) of its resolution 1994/305 of 29 July 1994, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Ninth Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders would be held from 3 to 14 April 1995, with pre-Congress consultations to be held on 1 and 2 April 1995.

G. Regional preparatory meetings

48. Five regional preparatory meetings were convened in 1994 as follows:

(a) Asia and the Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting, at Bangkok, from 17 to 21 January;

(b) African Regional Preparatory Meeting, at Kampala, Uganda, from 14 to 18 February;

(c) European Regional Preparatory Meeting, at Vienna, from 28 February to 4 March;

(d) Latin American and the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting, at San Jose, Costa Rica, from 7 to 11 March;

(e) Western Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting, at Amman, from 20 to 24 March.

49. Conference-servicing requirements for the above meetings amounted to $465,300.

H. Congress

50. Cost estimates for the Congress are based on the assumption that it will be held in February for 10 days at Vienna, the established headquarters of the substantive organizational unit. It is estimated that no additional resources

over and above those already proposed in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 would be required for implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/32. Moreover, it is understood that any additional costs resulting from the change of the meeting venue to Tunis would, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 40/243, be borne by the Government of Tunisia.

51. The cost estimates for the convening of the Congress are based on the following additional assumptions:

(a) There would be one plenary and two committees meeting daily, for a total of six meetings a day;

(b) The languages of the Congress would be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. There would be 750 pages of pre-session, 500 pages of in-session and 180 pages of post-session documentation. An additional 700 pages of national reports are expected for reproduction only.

52. The conference-servicing requirements for the Congress on a full-cost basis are estimated at $2,480,500.

V. THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE TO REVIEW ALL ASPECTS OF THE SET OF MULTILATERALLY AGREED EQUITABLE PRINCIPLES AND RULES FOR THE CONTROL OF RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES

A. Resolution adopted by the Second United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices

53. In paragraph 17 of its resolution of 7 December 1990, the Second United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices recommended to the General Assembly that a third review conference be convened in 1995.

B. General Assembly decision 48/442

54. By its decision 48/442 of 10 December 1993, the General Assembly took note of the recommendation of the Second United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices that a third review conference be convened in 1995 and, taking into account the work being done in that field by relevant intergovernmental bodies, decided to convene, under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, a Third United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, at Geneva in 1995.

C. Conference

55. It is anticipated that the Conference will be held for 10 working days with four meetings a day, and will be provided with interpretation and translation services in all six official languages. There will be 100 pages of pre-session, 100 pages of in-session and 50 pages of post-session documentation. The conference-servicing requirements for the Conference on a full-cost basis are estimated at $526,700.

VI. SUMMARY

56. The full-cost estimates of the World Summit for Social Development come to $870,000. Preparatory meetings held in 1994 for the Summit entail costs of $991,500.

57. Estimates on a full-cost basis for the Fourth World Conference on Women amount to $1,406,300. Regional preparatory conferences entail costs of $240,000, and expert group meetings, costs of $140,000.

58. The full-cost estimates of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders come to $2,480,500. Regional preparatory meetings entailed costs of $465,300.

59. Lastly, the full-cost estimates of the Third United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, amount to $526,700.

60. With regard to conference servicing, the extent to which the Organization's permanent capacity will need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences for 1994-1995. However, provisions are made under section 25 of the programme budget for 1994-1995 not only for meetings programmed at the time of budget preparation, but also for meetings that would be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences are consistent with the pattern of meetings in past years. Consequently, no additional appropriation will be required under section 25 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Notes

1/ See A/C.3/45/5.

2/ E/1992/24/Add.2, annex I.

3/ Ibid.

4/ E/CN.15/1993/7 and Corr.1, para. 5.

5/ E/CN.15/1994/8, paras. 17 and 18.

ANNEX

Schedule of meetings and conference-servicing requirements in relation to scheduled special conferences for 1995

A. World Summit for Social Development

Reference document	Subject-matter	Location	Date	Number of pages of documentation			Languages	Daily meetings	Conference-servicing costs $
				Pre-session	In-session	Post-session			
A/C.5/47/70	Preparatory Committee (first session	New York	31 January-11 February 1994						)
									) 991 500
	Preparatory Committee (second session)	New York	22 August-2 September 1994						)
	Preparatory Committee (third session)	New York	16-27 January 1995						-
	World Summit for Social Development	Copenhagen	6-12 March 1995	500	150	-	6	4	870 000
	Ad hoc secretariat for the Summit								1 804 000
	Extrabudgetary resources for the Summit								1 000 000

B. Fourth World Conference on Women

Reference document	Subject-matter	Location	Date	Number of pages of documentation: Pre-session	In-session	Post-session	Languages	Daily meetings	Conference-servicing costs $
E/1992/24/ Add.2	Regional Preparatory Conference	Dakar	16-23 November 1994						)
	Regional Preparatory Conference	Mar del Plata	5-29 September 1994						) 290 100
	Regional Preparatory Conference	Jakarta	7-14 June 1994						)
	Regional Preparatory Conference	Vienna	17-21 October 1994						-
	Regional Preparatory Conference	Amman	6-10 November 1994						-
	Expert group meetings:								
	ECA (1)		)						)
	ECE (1)		)						)
	ECLAC (2)		)1994-1995						) 140 000
	ESCAP (2)		)						)
	ESCWA (1)		)						)
	Fourth World Conference on Women	Beijing	4-15 September 1995	500	300	200	6	6	1 406 300
	Ad hoc secretariat for the Conference								1 769 100
	Extrabudgetary resources for the Conference								4 500 000

C. Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Reference document	Subject-matter	Location	Date	Number of pages of documentation			Languages	Daily meetings	Conference-servicing costs $
				Pre-session	In-session	Post-session			
	Asia and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting	Bangkok	17-21 January 1994						115 500
	African Regional Preparatory Meeting	Kampala	14-18 February 1994						94 900
	European Regional Preparatory Meeting	Vienna	28 February-4 March 1994						108 400
	Latin American and the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting	San Jose	7-11 March 1994						67 400
	Western Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting	Amman	20-24 March 1994						79 100
	Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders	Tunis	3-14 April 1995	750	500	180	6	6	2 480 500

D. Third United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices

Reference document	Subject-matter	Location	Date	Number of pages of documentation			Languages	Daily meetings	Conference-servicing costs $
				Pre-session	In-session	Post-session			
	Conference	Geneva	13-24 November 1995	100	100	50	6	4	526 700